

Are Governments Perfect?
30-Hour Week for England?
Philanthropic Poison Gas.
Wise Landlords Selling.

By ARTHUR BRISBANE.
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Mr. Ochs observes that the new constitution of the world makes no allowance for revolution or civil war. As the league of nations stands, all the countries apparently would unite to protect any established league government against revolution or civil war. That sort of arrangement would have prevented the United States leaving England, had there been a league of nations in 1776. It would have forbidden the French to transform their most abominable monarchy into a magnificent republic.

And today, as it stands, the league would not let Canada establish herself as an independent nation, or permit New Zealand or Australia to separate from the British Empire, unless with that empire's consent.

If government were perfect everywhere, a league to keep everything as it is would be all right. But is government perfect anywhere?

While England is helping to prepare peace for all the world forever, in Paris, there is serious class war in England. Lloyd George calls a national conference of employers and workers to meet, through their representatives, and discuss their difficulties. This will sound strange to those American employers who have a habit of saying that they will deal with their workmen individually—but will not recognize their organization. That method of treating workmen as a farmer would treat his horses, handling and breaking one at a time, will work no longer in England, where men are demanding a working week of thirty hours—and higher wages than they got during the war.

Times have changed in England since days not so long ago when a laborer was branded with a red-hot iron if, without permission, he left his parish to seek work in another parish.

The eight million Austrians of German blood want to unite with Germany, for they can't work with the Slavs, Czechs and other former subjects of Austria who will have nothing to do with them. Germany is willing; France objects.

Prof. Larnaud, head of the Paris law faculty, suspects that Germany is planning more war, through the air, with improved flying machinery.

It would seem that Germany has had enough of war. She is trying to borrow six thousand million dollars, which ought to be difficult, as she owes thirty-five billions already at home and the allies have a claim of about one hundred billions against her.

The Associated Press reports that Germans are eagerly buying discarded American horses and army mules for food. One discarded horse sold for eleven hundred and seventy dollars. Germany has something more pressing to think about just now than another war through the air.

Poison gas is to remain as part of warfare, and strange to say, in the name of humanity. So says Brigadier General Fries, head of the United States chemical service. Gas, denounced as cruel and brutal, is just the thing, it seems, that civilization under the league of nations should use in subduing savages and others if they try to fight.

You can gas a man without killing him and conquer entire armies, leaving the individuals safe and sound, after you subdue them with a temporary dose of gas. Gas, it seems, is more merciful than gunpowder, just as gunpowder, which was formerly denounced as inhuman, is more merciful and kills fewer than did weapons of ancient warfare.

Armies of the league of nations, controlling the gas peacefully, subduing quarrelsome savages with poison gas, will constitute a new phase of civilization.

Investigation of court-martial proceedings in the American army produces unpleasant results. You find that officers guilty of a certain offense are punished very lightly. Private soldiers guilty of the same offense are sentenced to long terms of imprisonment, or even death.

LIEUTENANT Conroy, guilty of desertion, is sentenced to be dismissed and imprisoned for six years. His sentence is reduced to two and one-half years. PRIVATE Ledson, convicted of desertion, is sentenced to be shot to death. The sentence is commuted to dishonorable discharge and imprisonment at hard labor for fifteen years.

Since this is a republic, how would it do to let private soldiers have something to say in court-martial? We are not afraid to select ordinary citizens for civilian juries. Why not ordinary soldiers for military juries?

England is the land of wise men. Some of her greatest real estate owners are selling their gigantic estates. A handful of Englishmen own more than half the land in England. Suddenly they have taken to selling these properties, while the selling is still possible. It seems to have occurred to them that if they wait too long the risk

WEATHER:

Fair tonight and tomorrow. Temperature about 25 degrees tonight. Temperature at 8 a. m., 23 degrees. Normal temperature for February 18 for last 30 years, 25 degrees.

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BOHRAH ONLY MEMBER OF CONGRESS TO DECLINE PRESIDENT'S INVITATION

BILL TO ERECT VICTORY ARCH IN THIS CITY INTRODUCED

Following a hearing before the Public Buildings and Grounds Committee of the House today, at which Col. Robert N. Harper, former Congressman James T. Lloyd and other prominent citizens of the District appeared, Chairman Clark of the Public Buildings Committee, introduced in the House the bill for a fitting memorial in the District for the soldiers, sailors and marines who participated in the war with Germany and who fell in that struggle.

Solemn Favor Plan.
The bill is for the construction here of the National Arch of Triumph, or such other memorial as may be satisfactory to the citizens who have originated the idea. At the hearing today Colonel Harper presented the proposition briefly and the members of the committee as a rule showed themselves strongly in favor of it.

Colonel Harper stated that the memorial might take the form of an arch, a museum building or something equally appropriate. It was his feeling as well as that of others that the commercial idea should be excluded. He said the cost should be not less than \$2,000,000, but suggestions of members of the committee indicated they believed that a cost of \$5,000,000 would not be too great.

Chairman Clark said he would refer the matter to a subcommittee. It is the understanding that the measure presented today is simply a basis for study and examination and that what will finally be reported will represent the views of the committee.

Rucker Is Opposed.
While Congressman Rucker of Missouri took the position that Washington ought not have the memorial and that a memorial should be put in each State capital or the metropolis of each State, this did not seem to be the committee view.

Alexander M. Brainer, of this city, presented a plan for the "Athenaeum of Triumph," which he proposes to build through subscriptions in Washington as a memorial to the war. He insisted this was preferable to the plan presented by Colonel Harper.

Rev. Mr. Jeffries, speaking, he said, for the Protestant clergy of Washington, strongly indorsed the idea presented by Colonel Harper. He said he opposed the plan presented by Mr. Brainer.

Colonel Harper presented a statement to the House Public Buildings Committee. It follows, in part: "Civilized countries in all ages have at some time paid tribute to the soldiers who have, at the risk of their own lives, rescued or saved their country from a threatened destruction, so that freedom and peace for future generations might prevail. This country has not been the exception to the rule. At a cost of approximately \$1,500,000 the Washington Monument was erected in commemoration of the freedom of a State also erected the Lincoln Memorial, commemorating the

(Continued on Page 2, Column 8.)

TODAY
ing discontent in England may substitute something else for the selling process.
Private owners of railroads and telegraph lines in the United States might learn something to their advantage by asking Englishmen why they are selling the big estates.
A colored lady in Washington remarked "the civil war made colored people persons. This war is making colored men officers, and goodness knows how much they'll know when they come back."
In South Carolina the colored citizens are talking about forming a new political party. Their idea is no longer to indorse the Republican party for the sake of Abraham Lincoln. Their leaders suggest that they have a party of their own, and that when Democrats and other white men have political rows the negro voters constitute themselves a balance of power, with suitable reward after victory.

Miss Wilson Sings For Wounded Soldiers



MISS MARGARET WILSON, Daughter of the President, singing to wounded American soldiers at the Red Cross Military Hospital at Rue Piccini, Paris.

ORPHAN HOMES OF D. C. TO BE PROBED

Capt. C. Spencer Richardson, children's expert of the Russell Sage Foundation, of New York, will shortly return to Washington to direct a survey of child placing institutions in the District of Columbia, and the general situation as regards orphan and dependent children.

The first proposal that such a survey be made was offered last year. Nothing came of it. Captain Richardson was loaned to the Government to make a survey of conditions in war-ridden countries of Europe.

On his return last week from Europe, he was requested to come to Washington. After conference with several children's welfare agencies here, Captain Richardson returned to New York to await formal request for the survey.

At a meeting of the Monday Evening Club last night, the formal request was made that the Russell Sage Foundation make study similar to those recently made by the foundation in Delaware and Maryland, touching the methods of child-caring in the District of Columbia, and to publish the results of this study with recommendations based thereon.

The club appropriated \$200 to cover the cost of printing 1,000 copies of the report when made.

Scope to Be Broad.
"The scope of the survey," Captain Richardson told a "Times" reporter, "will be broad. It will not be confined to any one institution nor to any one class of children. It is the general situation as to child placing and care that we are interested in."
"We are ready to come in and begin work as soon as the local organizations are ready for us," he added.
"Life, or be whipped," was Mrs. Greer's ultimatum to the orphans working in her bakery when the labor inspector was due for a visit, according to Mrs. Louis Hegarty, 1335 North Carolina avenue northeast, a witness in the Juvenile Court, last night.
"Everything looked lovely when the labor inspector came around," Mrs. Hegarty quoted a girl worker in the bakery as telling her.
Mrs. William A. Greer, manager of the bakery, "stood the children up and taught them to lie to the child labor inspector, and they did so fearfully. Mrs. Hegarty said this girl told her.
"The small children were sent to the left and put out of the way of the inspector," she quoted the girl as saying.
Mrs. Hegarty said she had been (Continued on Page 6, Column 1.)

"AMAZING"
That's What You Will Say When You Have Read Today's Chapter of the \$250 Prize
By JOHN C. KOONS, First Assistant Postmaster General
On Page 13

LABOR BACKS CARY FOR CONGRESS JOB

For the first time in history organized labor as a body is putting up a candidate for one of the positions that will be at the disposal of the Republican caucus when it meets on February 27.

Congressman William H. Cary, recently defeated after twelve years as Representative from Wisconsin, is proposed by organized labor as sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives.

More than 15,000 letters have been sent to local unions and central labor unions throughout the country requesting them to take the matter up with their representatives in Congress.

"President Wilson placed labor when he selected a union miner as a member of his Cabinet, and labor will be pleased if the Republican caucus selected a union telegrapher as sergeant-at-arms of the House of Representatives," says a communication from labor's representatives here.

Congressman Cary was a telegrapher thirty years ago. He was one of the organizers and a charter member of the Commercial Telegraphers Union. He has always been an advocate of labor legislation in Congress.

MILLION TONS WAIT, NO SHIPS AVAILABLE
Lack of ships for trans-ocean movement has resulted in congested conditions at several important ports on both Atlantic and Pacific coasts, according to reports made public by the United States Shipping Board today. More than 1,000,000 tons of cargo await vessels to move it. And the amount is increasing daily, reports to the Shipping Board show.
The War Department is employing approximately 2,500,000 tons of shipping, which normally would be used in trans-ocean traffic. This represents exactly half of the tonnage they used when war transportation was at its peak, Hurley said.
The Hoover commission has been notified it can obtain no more ships for relief work from this side. Great Britain or some other of the allied powers must furnish the ships which the commission believes it must have.

TARIFF WILL BE REVISED NEXT SESSION

A wholesale tariff revision probably will be undertaken at the opening of the next session of Congress. Republican and Democratic members of the House Ways and Means Committee today agreed on the necessity for framing new tariff legislation, although they differed radically on the kind of tariff that should be enacted.

Both Republicans and Democrats, however, warned that the country must not expect any great reduction in taxes because of the increased revenue that will come through the customs houses with the enactment of the new tariff bill.

The greatest amount ever brought in by tariff is approximately \$380,000,000 under the Payne-Aldrich law, when imports came to this country more freely than they can for a number of years after the war.

"We must, before long, tackle the tariff problem," said Congressman Longworth, Ohio Republican member of the Ways and Means Committee.

"In no doing, we must have regard to the fact that the tariff is not only for the revenue to be raised, but for the protection to be afforded American industry and labor."

Congressman Rainey, Ill., Democratic member of the committee, warned the necessity for tariff legislation.

"The Underwood law was designed largely to meet German competition, and for this reason is no longer applicable," he said.

Suggests English System.
Rainey suggested that this country adopt the English system of taxing noncompetitive articles, such as tea, coffee, and spices, instead of imported goods which come into competition with goods manufactured here.
"Under this system England has raised as high as \$150,000,000 a year," he said. "We are to be the creditor nation of the earth, and if a high protective tariff prohibits goods from abroad coming here we will get nothing but gold in exchange for our exports. This might easily cause the building of an enormous gold reserve, with consequent high prices."
Republicans of the Ways and Means Committee are confident that an extra session will be called soon, and for this reason have practically abandoned plans to get the committee together for work immediately at the end of the present session.

RUSSIAN RED ARMY GROWS CONSTANTLY, ENVOYS TOLD

PARIS, Feb. 18.—Serbian questions were taken up by the Big Five powers this afternoon without any conclusions having been reached by the delegates in their discussion of the Russian problems yesterday. All delegations agree to the urgency for bringing about settled conditions in Russia, but no definite plan has yet been decided upon.

The entente's military advisers declare the Bolshevik army is now stronger than when the invitation was issued to the various Russian factional governments to enter into a conference on Princes' Island in the Sea of Marmora.

Lenine's forces are said to have advanced everywhere except against the Estonians.
The strength of the Bolshevik army is estimated from 300,000—the figures supplied to the peace conference by Dr. Scavennius, former Danish minister to Petrograd—to 600,000—the estimate given by Sergius Sazonoff, former Russian foreign minister, who is here representing the anti-Bolsheviks.

Improvement Is General.
In the past month the Bolshevik army is said to have improved in quality and the discipline is reported to be better. But the Bolshevik soldiers still lack good materials, notably heavy guns.
France's attitude is that she is ready to co-operate in any practical way.

(Continued on Page 2, Column 3.)

BOND ISSUES ENDED UNDER HOUSE PLAN

The House Ways and Means Committee today tentatively decided to authorize no more bond issues, members said, but to authorize issuance of short-term notes to raise money that will be needed to run the Government.

The notes will mature, according to the tentative plans of the committee, from one to five years after the date of issue.
The Treasury Department, committee members said, is drawing a bill along the line suggested by the committee's tentative decision. The committee is also drawing a bill, and two will be compared and a compromise plan probably reported out of committee in the next few days.

The Treasury has still an authorization for the issuance of \$5,000,000 of bonds, which are as yet unused from previous authorizations. The department could use this authorization if it wished, but the bonds issued under it would be subject to the same interest rate of 4 1/2 per cent, and other conditions, as the Fourth Liberty loan, and Treasury officials have intimated to committee members that the conditions must be made more liberal if more bonds are to be sold.

U. S. CEMETERY IN FRANCE.
Senator Chamberlain's bill providing for a national cemetery in France to be named "the American Field of Honor" was ordered favorably reported by the Senate Military Affairs Committee today.

STATUS OF QUESTIONS BEFORE THE PEACE CONFERENCE

League of Nations—Constitution completed.
Armistice—Extended indefinitely, rendering Germany impotent militarily.

Militarism—Military and naval armaments to be limited under League of Nations, which also provides for settlement of international disputes by arbitration.
Freedom of Seas—Originally intended for protection of neutral rights, eliminated under League of Nations, which abolishes neutrality as defined in past.

Reparation—In hands of special committee reported making good progress.

Responsibility for War—Special committee investigating individuals responsible, laws inflicted, and punishment.
Boundaries—Being determined by supreme war council, assisted by several special committees.

Colonies—Territories and islands previously held by enemy countries to be placed under protectorates by League of Nations.
Labor—Special international labor committee investigating economic and social problems, already planned establishment of permanent international labor bureau in connection with League of Nations.

Women—Special committee to be established for advising delegates on questions involving women and children.

Russia—Allied Russian policy undetermined further than British and American troops to be withdrawn.

Germany—Provisional constitution adopted, and provisional government established with Friedrich Ebert as president.
Austria-Hungary—Empire divided into separate republics of Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Jugo-Slavia.

PRESIDENT COMING DIRECT TO CAPITAL

President Wilson will come direct to Washington after his address in Boston, and will not make any other address between the two cities, Secretary Tumulty announced today.

If the President's ship keeps up its schedule and arrives at Boston Monday, the President expects to be in Washington Tuesday morning.

ABOARD THE U. S. S. GEORGE WASHINGTON. Feb. 17 (delayed).—President Wilson spent the greater part of the day resting.

The first fair and warm weather since leaving Brest was encountered today, and the Presidential party left the seclusion of their cabins for the decks. Most of them attended the ship's movies last night.

The George Washington continued to make good time, and was scheduled to pass the Azores today.

Means No Disrespect.
"In writing this note and taking this course, I mean no personal disrespect to or disregard of the President. I simply find myself in such disagreement with him and feel so intensely concerning the matter that I cannot do other than candidly advise him to the fact."
Senator Borah's letter was sent by wireless to President Wilson, speeding onward on the George Washington. Comment on Borah's move was refused at the White House.
Senator Poindexter said he plans in his speech to attack Articles 8, 12, 18, and 19 of the proposed league constitution.
Article 8, Poindexter said today, gives to the league power which the American Constitution never gave the President, Congress, and all other Government agencies combined—the power to take away from the people the right to fix the size of the army and navy in their own way.
He objects to Article 12 on the ground that it transfers to "foreign powers every question which might

SENATOR IS AT ODDS WITH EXECUTIVE ON WORLD PACT

Senator Vardaman of Mississippi today assailed President Wilson for asking Congress to refrain from debate on the league of nations.

Senator Borah today declined President Wilson's invitation to dine at the White House and discuss the league of nations.

He based his action on two grounds: First, that he and the President are fundamentally at odds regarding any league of nations plan, and, second, that he could not allow himself to be bound by a confidential discussion, no part of which he could use later in argument or public discussion.

Stir at the Capitol.
Borah so far is the only member of either House or Senate Foreign Relations Committee to decline the President's invitation. Strong pressure was brought to bear on him to reconsider. His action created a great stir at the Capitol.

At the same time announcement was made that Senator Poindexter is prepared to disregard the president's express wish that debate be deferred, by beginning discussion of the league before the Senate.

After a conference with other opponents of the league, Poindexter today decided to postpone his speech until tomorrow. He gave notice in the Senate that he will take the floor at the first opportunity tomorrow.

Borah, who was ready to be plunged into the very sort of debate President Wilson sought by his invitation to the two committees to avoid. Administration leaders are considering measures for curbing the talk.

Borah, in a letter to Presidential Secretary Tumulty, made plain his reasons for declining the invitation.

Borah Gives Reasons.
"Meetings at the White House, according to a long standing custom," wrote Borah, "are always regarded as strictly confidential on the part of the guests. This meeting, I take it, would be regarded as especially confidential, otherwise the President would have spoken according to his custom to the open Senate."

"The differences between the President and myself on this question are fundamental. I am sure no suggestion of mine would modify in the slightest the attitude of the President, and nothing could induce me to support this league as outlined in the proposed constitution, or anything like it. I feel, therefore, that it would not be fair to the President to accept his confidence, or receive from him confidential information concerning this subject. Neither, in my view of the subject could I accept information which I would not feel perfectly free to transmit to my colleagues or use in public debate. After much reflection, I beg, therefore, to be excused from attending the meeting."

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(Continued on Page 3, Column 1.)

LOST AND FOUND

MACKINAW—On 10th and E sts., Monday night. Return to PEKING TEA GARDENS for reward. Fr. 7225. 1-11.

Mrs. Yuen phoned the the above ad to The Times and recovered her loss immediately.

As soon as an article is lost phone The Times an ad. Main 5260.

POLISH TROOPS IN BREST-LITOVSK

GENEVA, Feb. 18.—Polish troops were reported today to have occupied Brest-Litovsk after heavy fighting.

Brest-Litovsk is a fortress in western Russia where the peace treaty between the Germans and the Russian Bolsheviks was signed. Near it the imperial castle formerly occupied by the Kings of Poland.